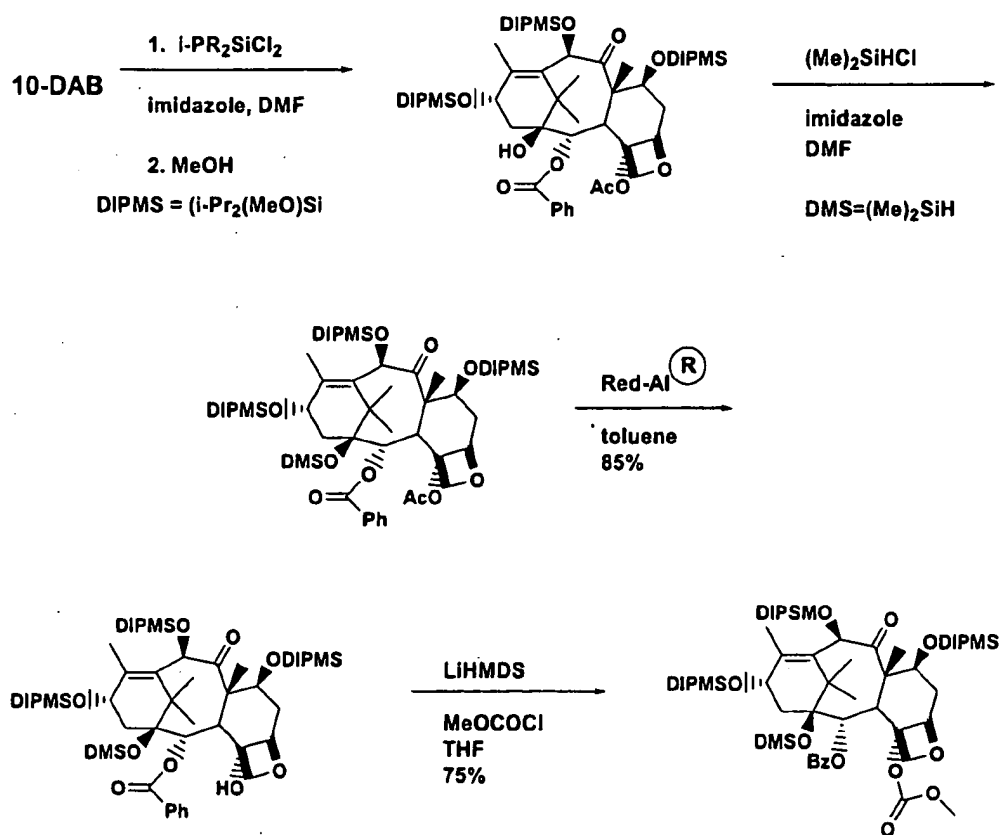


## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete Scheme 3 on pages 19 and 20, and insert the following scheme:

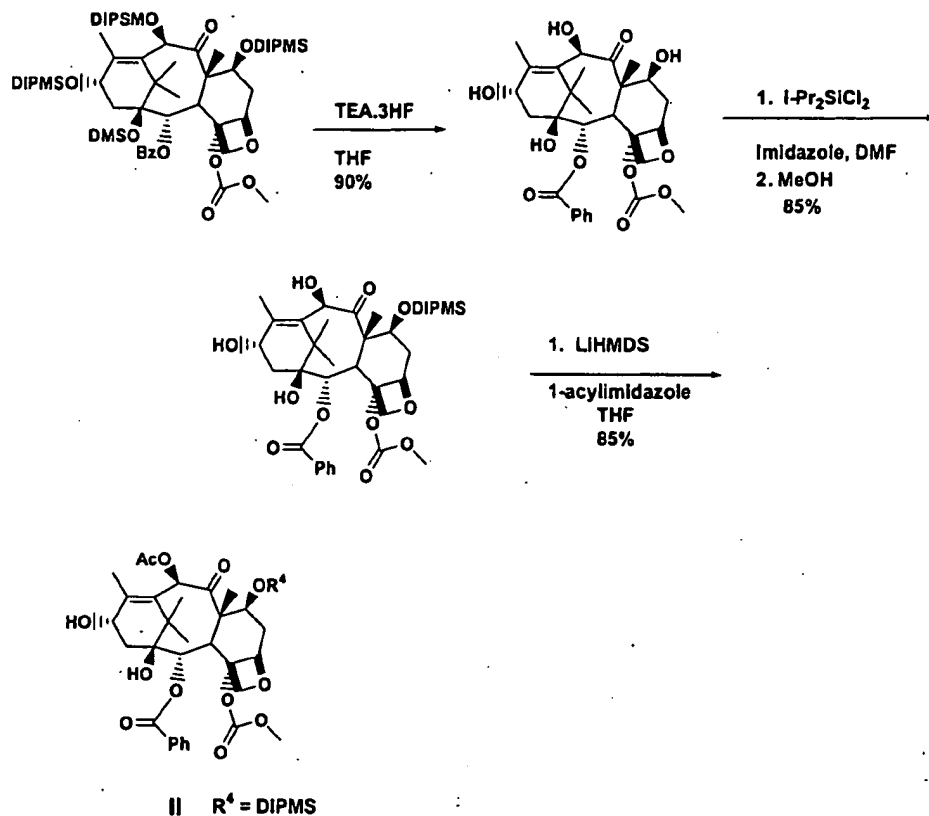
### Scheme 3

### Preferred Synthesis of Protected C-4 Methyl Carbonate Baccatin



Additionally, please delete Scheme 3 (continued) on page 20, and insert the following scheme:

**Scheme 3 continued**



Additionally, please amend page 21, line 14, as follows:

--of most preferably an acid chloride, (i.e.,  $R^1-C(=O)Cl$ ) chloroformate or, alternatively, acid anhydride is added to provide compound I directly.--